

Sample content for IRWM Summaries

REGION AT A GLANCE

American River Basin IRWM Region

<http://www.rwah20.org>

Region Description

The American River Basin (ARB) IRWM region encompasses most of Sacramento County and portions of western Placer and El Dorado counties. Most of the ARB IRWMP region is within the lower American River and lower Sacramento River watersheds, with a portion of the southern ARB IRWMP region in the lower Cosumnes River watershed. There is a minor overlap area of the IRWM region with the C&BY region.



Quick IRWM Facts

Plan Status	Updating
Year Most Recent IRWMP Adopted	2006
Population	1,544,877 (2008)
Total Area	1,232 sq mi (788,840 acres)
Governance	Joint Powers Authority (JPA)
Lead Agency	Regional Water Authority (RWA)

Major Regional Challenges

- Maintaining sustainable water resources for all uses under all hydrologic conditions
- Maintaining reliable groundwater resources with the presence of several extensive contaminant plumes
- Preserving and improving habitat in a highly urbanized environment
- Protecting a large urban population in a flood-prone environment
- Engaging the public at large as part of the solution to ensuring sustainable water resources

Major Regional Goals/Objectives

- Provide reliable and sustainable water resources to meet existing and future needs (2013 Draft)
- Protect and enhance the quality of surface water and groundwater (2013 Draft)
- Protect and enhance the environmental resources of the watersheds within the region (2013 Draft)
- Protect people, property, and environmental resources of region from damaging flooding (2013 Draft)
- Promote community stewardship of our region's water resources (2013 Draft)

Major IRWM Milestones

- RWA approved as RWMG in 2009 by DWR
- Held initial stakeholder meeting to commence current update in November 2009
- IRWM grants are supporting a minimum of 32 projects to at least 23 different organizations
- Web-based Interface to Improve transparency, communication, and collaboration launched in Feb 2012

Water Supply and Demand

The ARB IRWM region primarily relies on a mixture of surface water, groundwater, and recycled water to meet water demands. In 2010, water demands in the region were 498,994 AFY. The ARB IRWMP projected 2020 water demands to increase to 630,248 AFY based on land use and population projections.

Water Quality

The region's surface and recycled water are generally of good quality and meet regulatory standards. There are numerous industrial groundwater contamination plumes that have directly impacted or continue to threaten groundwater quality for consumptive uses. Throughout the region, groundwater contamination plumes have forced some wells to be taken out of service and continue to threaten other local groundwater supplies as the plumes migrate.

Flood Management

Flood management has been identified as one of the region's major challenges. The primary flood management entity within the ARB Region is Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA). Currently, the Sacramento region has the lowest level of flood protection of any major U.S. metropolitan area. Therefore, one of the ARB IRWMP key strategies is to achieve a 200-year flood protection in applicable urban areas by 2025.

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Sample IRWM summary, cont'd.

Groundwater Management

The Water Forum Agreement (WFA) signatories agreed upon a long-term average annual groundwater extraction limitation of 519,000 AF (sustainable yield) within Sacramento and Placer counties. Conjunctive use with surface water allows the ARB region to meet annual water demands of 498,994 AFY (2010). The amount of surface water used is dependent upon the amount of runoff collected in the Folsom Reservoir. In wetter years, groundwater pumping will be greatly reduced through increased surface water use. No long-term overdraft of groundwater exists within the region.

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental stewardship is practiced through ongoing efforts to meet regional environmental strategies identified in the IRWMP. Such efforts include projects for the Lower Cosumnes River. The American River contains projects and management plans as well as the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) that aim to improve aquatic and wildlife habitat. Habitat conservation plans have been created for the Lower American River, South Sacramento, Natomas, and Placer.

Climate Change

The ARB IRWM region has many potential vulnerabilities to climate change associated with the variety of physical and cultural landscapes that make up the region. In-stream temperature changes would impact fish and wildlife habitat. Changes in mountain snowpack and runoff amounts and seasonality would have impacts relating to water supply, as well as flood risk. The region's connection to the Delta is cause for sea level rise concerns.

Tribal Communities

RWA consulted with DWR in 2011 to identify three recognized tribes in the region. These are the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria in Placer County, the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-wuk Indians in Sacramento County, and the Wilton Rancheria in Sacramento County. RWA notified representatives of the tribes of the IRWM effort in 2011 and invited their participation.

Disadvantaged Communities

The ARB IRWMP includes several dedicated sections addressing public outreach efforts and coordination for water related projects and programs for DACs within the ARB IRWM Region. DACs in the Region were defined by having an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income.

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Governance

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a joint powers authority formed in 2001 to assist local water suppliers with protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability, and quality of water resources. RWA was officially recognized as the Regional Water Management Group by DWR in 2009.

Stakeholder Groups

Organizations involved in IRWM	
California American Water (CalAm)	Rancho Marieta Community Services District (RMCSO)
Carmichael Water District (CWD)	Regional Water Authority (RWA)
Citrus Heights Water District (CHWD)	Roseville (Department of Environmental Utilities)
City of Sacramento (Department of Utilities)	Sacramento Area Creeks Council (SACC)
Dry Creek Conservancy (DCC)	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)
Duck Unlimited (DU)	Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA)
El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSO)
Fair Oaks Water District (FOWD)	Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD)
Folsom (Department of Utilities)	San Juan Water District (SJWD)
Freeport Regional Water Authority (FRWA)	Save the American River Association (SARA)
Golden State Water Company (GSWC)	Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (SSCAWA)
Laguna Creek Watershed Council (LCWC)	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Lincoln (Department of Public Works)	The Sacramento Water Forum
Orange Vale Water Company (OVWC)	
Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (PCFCWCD)	
Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)	